

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1        1. (Currently Amended) A method for forming leads, comprising:  
2              forming a liftoff mask having a desired width;  
3              forming leads contiguous to and on opposite sides of the liftoff mask;  
4              removing the liftoff mask, the removal of the liftoff mask leaving fencing on the  
5        leads;  
6              forming a layer of carbon over the leads after removal of the mask; and  
7              performing chemical mechanical polishing on the leads at the fencing to  
8        preferentially remove a portion of the leads including the fencing and a portion of the  
9        carbon layer.

1        2. (Original)     The method of claim 1 wherein the desired width of the  
2        liftoff mask is a trackwidth for a magnetoresistive sensor.

1        3. (Original)     The method of claim 1 wherein the forming a liftoff mask  
2        having a desired width further comprises forming a single layer liftoff mask.

1        4. (Original)     The method of claim 1, further comprising removing any  
2        remaining carbon using an oxygen plasma.

1           5. (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein the forming leads on  
2   opposite sides of the liftoff mask further comprises depositing leads using a sputtering  
3   process.

1           6. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a magnetic read sensor,  
2   comprising:  
3         forming a magnetoresistive sensor element; and  
4         forming leads to the magnetoresistive sensor element, the forming the leads to the  
5   magnetoresistive sensor element further comprising:  
6         forming a liftoff mask having a desired width over the magnetoresistive  
7   sensor element;  
8         forming leads contiguous to and on opposite sides of the liftoff mask and  
9   in contact with the magnetoresistive sensor element;  
10         removing the liftoff mask, the removal of the liftoff mask leaving fencing  
11   on the leads;  
12         forming a layer of carbon over the leads after removal of the mask; and  
13         performing chemical mechanical polishing on the leads at the fencing to  
14   preferentially remove a portion of the leads including the fencing and a portion of the  
15   carbon layer.

1           7. (Original)   The method of claim 6 wherein the desired width of the  
2   liftoff mask is a trackwidth for the magnetoresistive read sensor.

1           8. (Original)     The method of claim 6 wherein the forming a liftoff mask  
2       having a desired width further comprises forming a single layer liftoff mask.

1           9. (Original)     The method of claim 6, further comprising removing any  
2       remaining carbon using an oxygen plasma.

1           10. (Original)    The method of claim 6 wherein the forming leads on  
2       opposite sides of the liftoff mask further comprises depositing leads using a sputtering  
3       process.

1           11. (Original)    The method of claim 6 wherein the forming the  
2       magnetoresistive sensor element further comprises forming an anisotropic  
3       magnetoresistive (AMR) sensor element.

1           12. (Original)    The method of claim 6 wherein the forming the  
2       magnetoresistive sensor element further comprises forming a giant magnetoresistive  
3       (GMR) sensor element.

- 1           13. (Withdrawn) A magnetic read sensor, comprising:
- 2           a magnetoresistive sensor element; and
- 3           leads, coupled to the magnetoresistive sensor element, the leads to the
- 4           magnetoresistive sensor element created by forming a liftoff mask having a desired width
- 5           over the magnetoresistive sensor element, forming leads contiguous to and on opposite
- 6           sides of the liftoff mask and in contact with the magnetoresistive sensor element,
- 7           removing the liftoff mask, the removal of the liftoff mask leaving fencing on the leads,
- 8           forming a layer of carbon over the leads and performing chemical mechanical polishing
- 9           on the leads at the fencing to preferentially remove the fencing.